Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01197 131646Z

43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 CU-04

PM-07 RSR-01 /093 W
---------- 077678
P R 131545Z JUL 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2071
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1197

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GDR RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS DURING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

REF: A. BERLIN 1183
B. BONN 9856

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN SENAT, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND PRESS HAVE SHARPLY CONDEMNED GDR RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS BY WEST BERLINERS DURING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (200 APPLICATIONS HAVE NOW BEEN REJECTED). GENERAL EXPECTATION HERE IS THAT SENAT, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR ALLIES CANNOT AVOID INTERCEDING STRONGLY TO PREVENT BLATANT VIOLATION OF QA AND SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS. AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES' CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV JULY 12 WAS INCONCLUSIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT PRESS OFFICE JULY 12 ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE PREVIOUS DAY SOME 200 APPLICATIONS TO VISIT EAST BERLIN, POTSDAM. AND FRANKFURT/ODER DURING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01197 131646Z

REJECTED BY GDR VISIT OFFICES, AND THAT SENAT HAD REQUESTED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MEETING OF SENAT AND GDR COMMISSIONERS (KUNZE AND MITDANK)
BE HELD IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSS MATTER. WE LEARNED SUBSEQUENTLY
THAT MITDANK REFUSED TO MEET JULY 13. WHILE SETTING
ASIDE ANY NOTION THAT "TOTAL BLOCKADE"
WAS BEING IMPOSED, SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN STRUVE DECLARED
JULY 12 THAT REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS CLEARLY CONTRADICTED
PROVISIONS OF SENAT-GDR VISITS ARRANGEMENT. STRUVE SAID
IT WAS ABSURD FOR GDR TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ABOUT 5000 WEST
BERLINERS AT TIME WHEN OVER 150,000 (SIC) VISITORS WERE
BEING WELCOMED FOR YOUTH FESTIVAL. HE REJECTED GDR CLAIM
THAT VISITS QUOTA WAS ALREDY FULL, POINTING OUT THAT BY
TERMS OF QA AND SUPPLEMENTARY AGGREEMENTS NO SUCH QUOTA
EXISTED. (STRUVE ALSO COMMENTED TO MISSION OFFICER, TONGUE-
IN-CHEEK, THAT UNLESS FRG VISITORS AS WELL AS WEST BERLINERS
WERE BARRED, PRINCIPLE OF "COMPARABLE TREATMENT" WOULD
BE DISTURBED.)

4. GDR RESTRICTIONS DREW IMMEDIATE CNESURE
OF BERLIN POLITICAL LEADERS. CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ BRANDED
RESTRICTIONS "FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF QA AND SUPPLEMENTARY
AGREEMENTS THAT ON NO CONDITION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. HE
CALLED UPON SENAT TO USE ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO
PRECLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER ARBITRARY
COMMUNIST LIMITATIONS ON VISITS ARRANGEMENT. KLAUS
LANDOWSKY, CHAIRMAN OF BERLIN JUNG UNION, RAISED POSSIBILITY
THAT JUNGE UNION MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS PARTICIPATION
IN YOUTH FESTIVAL. SPD LANDESVORSTAND PROTESTED VERY
SHARPLY" AGAINST "APPARENT BLOCKADE OF EAST BERLIN FOR
WEST BERLINERS." FDP FRAKTION LEADER OXFORT ADDED BY WAY
OF IRONICAL COMMENT THAT GDR SHOULD IN FACT BE PLEASED
THAT SO MANY WEST BERLINERS WERE INTERESTED IN YOUTH FESTIVAL.

5. BERLIN PRESS HAS CHARACTERIZED GDR RESTRICIONS AS
"FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF QA (B.Z.) AND "BREACH OF TREATY"
(MORGENPOST AND TAGESSIPIEGEL). GDR EXCUSE THAT ITS
FACILITIES IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE OVERCROWDED HAS BEEN
REJECTED AS PATENTLY GROUNDLESS, AND MORE PLAUSIBLE MOTIVE
ASCRIBED TO GDR REGIME WAS DESIRE TO LIMIT CONTACT BETWEEN
YOUTH OF EASTERN BLOC AND WEST. BOTH MORGENPOST (SPRINGER)
AND SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT (SPD) HAVE URGED ALLIES TO
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01197 131646Z

INTERCEDE TO FORCE RETRACTION OF VISIT RESTRICTIONS AND
THEREBY PREVENT FURTHER ARBITRARY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WEST BERLINERS AND UNDERMINING OF QA.

6. IN HUMOROUS SIDELIGHT TO OTHERWISE SERIOUS AND CONCERNED
PRESS TREATMENT, B.Z. REPORTED JULY 12 TELEPHONE CONVER-
SATION BETWEEN ONE OF ITS EDITORS AND GDR COMMISSIONER
MITDANK. LATTER, WHEN INFORMED THAT B.Z. WAS ON LINE,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

APPARENTLY ASSUMED IT WAS EAST BERLIN B.Z. AM ABEND,
AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER RESTRICTIONS WOULD
ALSO AFFECT WEST GERMANS, ADMONISHED CALLER NOT TO PUBLISH
ANYTHING ON THE SUBJECT AND IMMEDIATELY HUNG UP. WHEN
B.Z.CALLED BACK AND EXPLAINED APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING,
MITDANK AVOWED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF WHOLE AFFAIR AND
REFERRED B.Z. TO NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FOR INFORMATION ON
PROGRESS OF VISITS ARRANGEMENT.

7. FRENCH MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT AT HIS LUNCH
WITH YEFREMOV JULY 12, AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES MADE
REPRESENTATION ALONG LINES PARA 5 REF B. HE SAID THAT
PROVISIONS OF INNER-GERMAN ARRANGEMENT ALLOWED GDR
CERTAIN LEEWAY TO REJECT APPLICATIONS FROM PERSONS WHO
WERE PARTICULARLY SUSPECT, BUT IN ANY CASE THERE WAS
NOTHING IN NORMAL FLOW OF VISITS THAT SHOULD CAUSE GDR
CONCERN. AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES ASSURED YEFREMOV
THAT IT WAS EXAGGERATION TO ENVISAGE SUDDEN FLOOD
OF "SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS" COMING FROM WEST
BERLIN. IN RESPONSE, SOVIET AMBASSADOR AFFIRMED THAT
GDR HAD NO INTENTION TO VIOLATE QA AND THAT IT WAS
PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT WINZER HAD BROACHED PROBLEM
OF FESTIVAL IN HELSINKI. FESTIVAL PRESENTED REAL
DIFFICULTIES FOR GDR, CONCERNING WHICH GDR HOPED FOR
UNDERSTANDING FROM ALLIES. INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE WAS
DROPPED AT THIS POINT. (FRENCH REPORT OF OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED IN
SAUVAGNARGUES-YEFREMOV MEETING SENT SEPTEL.)BORG

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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